

NCC

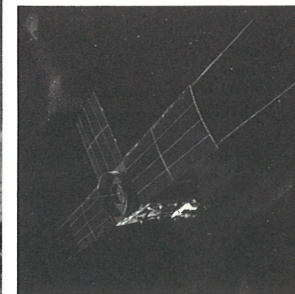
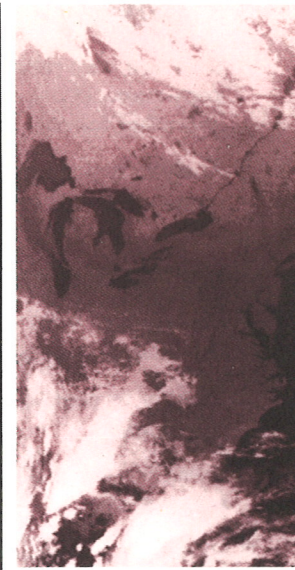
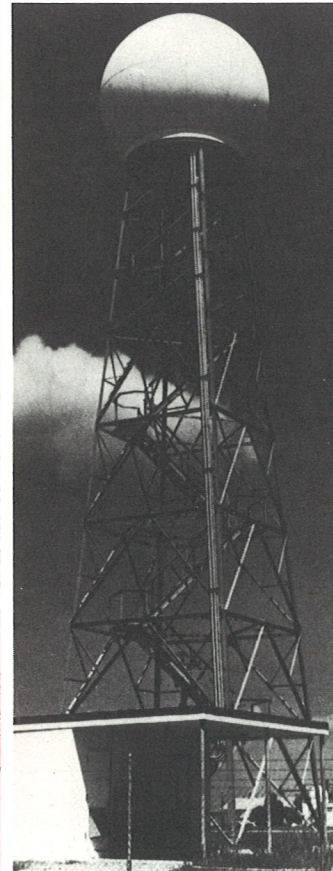
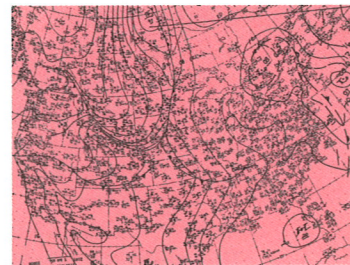
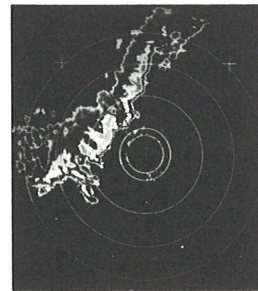
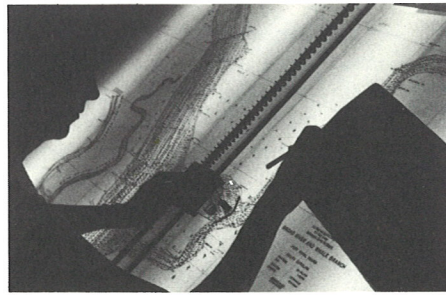
The National Climatic Center

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Data Service



FROM the earliest days of colonial America, man's preoccupation with events in the natural world was understood to be more than curiosity. Then, as now, it was clear that our ability to describe the physical environment was crucial to our development as a nation. The high-technology, expanding civilization of today is proof of this, for there is hardly a human activity, or an area of national economy, or an interaction between man and nature that does not use environmental information.

The information used may be of the day-to-day type, which describes and predicts natural events; or it may be of a more historical type, which describes nature as it has been. Fulfilling the national need for such historical documentation is the work of NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and its Environmental Data Service.



WHERE these histories are concerned with the envelope of air surrounding planet Earth, and with observations of the processes we call weather, the data management activities focus in the National Climatic Center (NCC), Asheville, North Carolina, the largest of the six major facilities* in the Environmental Data Service, and the largest climatic center in

*Others are the National Geophysical and Solar-Terrestrial Data Center, Boulder, Colo.; the National Oceanographic Data Center, the Environmental Science Information Center, and the Center for Experiment Design and Data Analysis, Washington, D.C.; and the Center for Climatic and Environmental Assessment, Columbia, Mo.

the world. For researchers in government, private institutions, and industry, for atmospheric scientists and engineers, and for the general public, it is a unique central source of historical weather information and related products; it also administers World Data Center A, Meteorology, which provides for international data exchange.

As the collection center and custodian of all United States weather records, the National Climatic Center obtains the data generated by NOAA's National Weather Service, the weather services of the Air Force, Navy, and the Federal Aviation Administration, the Coast Guard, and cooperative observers on land, at sea, and

in the air. Also included are the cloud photography and other data obtained from environmental satellites.

Records from the military services include those from ships at sea, aircraft, and foreign bases. Archives include automated, miniaturized, and hard-copy forms.

After computer and human editing, data for which there is general user demand are summarized and published for distribution to a wide variety of subscribers and for answering requests for data. One million copies of monthly and annual climatological publications are mailed to 65,000 subscribers annually.

Climatic Information Available From NCC

- *Hourly Surface Observations From Land Stations* (ceiling, sky cover, visibility, precipitation or other weather phenomena occurring, obstructions to vision, pressure, temperature, dew point, wind direction, wind speed, gustiness).
- *Three-Hourly and Six-Hourly Surface Observations From Land Stations, Ocean Weather Stations, and Moving Ships* (variable data content).
- *Upper Air Observations* (radiosondes, rawinsondes, rocketsondes, low-level soundings, pilot balloon winds, aircraft reports).
- *Radar Observations* (radar log sheets, radar scope photography).
- *Satellite Data* (vidicon pictures of earth and clouds, Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) imagery and other radiation data, derived products). Available from branch in Maryland.
- *Selected Maps and Charts* (National Meteorological Center products).
- *Derived and Summary Data* (grid points, computer tabulations, digital summary data).
- *Special Collections* (large-scale interdisciplinary experiments, such as Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP) basic data set, GARP Atlantic Tropical Experiment meteorological data, International Field Year for the Great Lakes data collections, solar radiation data, and many others).

NCC Services

- Data and map reproduction, including hard-copy manuscripts, microforms, digital media, and other forms.
- Analysis and preparation of statistical summaries based on archive holdings.
- Evaluation of various data records for specific analytical requirements.
- Library search for bibliographic references, abstracts, and documents.
- Referral to organizations holding requested information.
- Provision of general atmospheric sciences information.
- Supply of publications, including reference manuals, catalogs of holdings, data reports, and atlases.

Requests For Services

Requests should define data required, stations or geographical limits involved, desired carrier medium (magnetic tape, punched cards, microforms, hard copy), and such other pertinent information as a description of the problem for which the data are required. NCC personnel and the user consult on content and specifications, but nongovernment users who require assistance in specifying their needs are referred to a private meteorological consultant.

Work is performed on a reimbursable basis. Unit costs for some simple services have been established by the Department of Commerce; otherwise, the requester is provided a cost estimate before work begins.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME at the National Climatic Center. Many data users find a visit advantageous. NCC's meteorologists, data processing specialists, and records specialists then work most effectively as a team in exploring the problem with the users and in determining how NCC may best serve their needs.

Advance notice is desirable, especially if the visitor wishes to confer with specific staff members or types of specialists. Working space and assistance are provided as needed. Call (704) 258-2850, extension 683, or write to the address given below. Residents of the Washington, D.C., area may reach us directly and toll-free by dialing (no area code required) 427-7919. Our Federal Telecommunications System number is (704) 254-0683. Letters should be addressed to:

The National Climatic Center
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Federal Building
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

Satellite data are available from the Satellite Data Services Branch located in Room 606, World Weather Building, 5200 Auth Road, Camp Spring, Md. Telephone: (301) 763-8111. The mailing address is:

Satellite Data Services Branch, NOAA
World Weather Building, Room 606
Washington, D.C. 20233

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